

Appl. No. 10/658,220  
Reply to Office Action mailed May 18, 2006

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R E M A R K S

Claim 4 was amended to correct a clerical error.

Claim 6 was amended to include the features of claim 2.

Claims 8 to 13 were amended to depend on claim 4.

Claim 15 was amended to include the features of claim 18.

Claim 16 was amended to include the features of claim 20.

Claim 21 was amended to depend on claim 15.

Applicants are pleased to note that claims 4, 6, 7, 18 and 20 to 21 were considered to be allowable (see item no. 6 at the bottom of page 7 of the Office Action).

Claims 1 to 3, 5, 15 to 17, 19, 22 to 25 and 30 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Kuze et al. (JP 7-109363) for the reasons set forth in item no. 3 on pages 2 to 3 of the Office Action.

Claims 8 to 13 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Kuze et al. as modified by Markfort et al. (USP 5,451,304) and further in view of Iwasa et al. (JP 2000-158585) for the reasons stated in item no. 4 on pages 3 to 6 of the Office Action.

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Claims 26 to 27 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Kuze et al. and further in view of Tanaka (USP 6,217,994) for the reasons indicated in item no. 5 beginning at the bottom of page 6 and continuing to the bottom of page 7 of the Office Action.

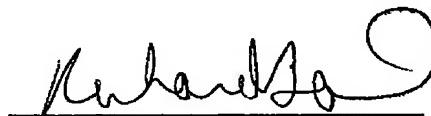
The above rejections are moot in view of the present claims.

Reconsideration is requested. Allowance is solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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